

# Hyracodon

*Hyracodon* ('hyrax tooth) is an extinct genus of mammal.



Restoration by Charles R. Knight.

It was a lightly built, pony-like mammal of about 1.5 m (5 ft) long. *Hyracodon*'s skull was large in comparison to the rest of the body. *Hyracodon*'s dentition resembled that of later rhinoceroses, but it was a much smaller animal and differed very little in appearance from the primitive horses of which

it was a contemporary (32–26 million years ago). It had a short, broad snout and its long, slender limbs had three digits.<sup>[2]</sup>

Like the primitive horses, *hyracodonts* inhabited open forests and wooded steppes and turned from browsing foliage to grazing grass. They died out without leaving any descendants and they mark the end of the phylogenetic branch of hornless, running rhinoceroses.

This small, fast-running creature was a close relative of the largest land mammal that ever lived, the 20-ton *Paraceratherium*.

## References

1.

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2.

Palmer, D., ed. (1999). *The Marshall Illustrated Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Animals*. London: Marshall Editions. pp. 283–284. ISBN 1-84028-152-9.

## Sources

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Benes, Josef (1979). *Prehistoric Animals and Plants*. Prague, CZ: Artua. p. 220.

Hyracodon
Temporal range:
Middle Eocene–Late Oligocene
<div> <div>PreЄ</div> <div>Є</div> <div>OS</div> <div>D</div> <div>C</div> <div>P</div> <div>T</div> <div>J</div> <div>K</div> <div>PgN</div> </div>
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- †*H. primus*
- †*H. princeps*
- †*H. priscidens*



Restoration by Heinrich Harder.

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